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- Figure 6**

providing a blend of starch and another polysaccharide to the thickener overflow as a treating agent prior to said filtration.

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CMT
- 5 11. An improvement as claimed in claim 10 wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of pullulan, dextran, alginate, zooglan, lactan or mixtures thereof.
12. An improvement in the Bayer process as claimed in claim 10 or 11 wherein a filter aid is added to the thickener overflow to assist filtration.
13. An improvement as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12 wherein the filter aid is calcium aluminate.
- 10 14. An improvement as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13 wherein the filter aid is a 12% aqueous suspension of calcium aluminate.
- 15 15. An improvement as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13 wherein the treating aid includes up to 10 ppm of polysaccharide and 20-30 ppm of starch.
16. An improvement as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 15 wherein treating agent includes up to 5 ppm of polysaccharide.
17. An improvement as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 16 wherein the polysaccharide to starch ratio in the treating agent is between 9:1 and 1:9.